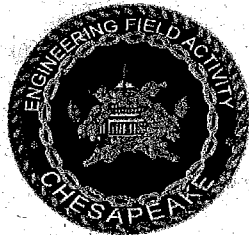


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PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED CLEANUP  
AT SITE 41 NSWC INDIAN HEAD MD  
2/1/2001  
NAVFAC CHESAPEAKE



# Indian Head Division Naval Surface Warfare Center

## Scrap Yard (Site 41)

### Invitation to Comment on the Proposed Cleanup

#### Introduction

You have the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Plan for the Scrap Yard (Site 41) at a public meeting on February 20, 2001. The Department of the Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) want to hear your views about the plans for this project. The site has been carefully studied, and it is now believed that removal of contaminated soil with land use controls and monitoring are the best way to protect human health and the environment.

You may make comments at the public meeting. You also have until April 6, 2001 to supply written comments on the Proposed Plan or other material in the **Administrative Record** file. At the end of the comment period, the Navy, EPA, and MDE will review the suggestions and make a final determination about the proposed cleanup. Your input on the Proposed Plan is an important part of the decision-making process. You may obtain a copy of the Proposed Plan as described on page 3.

#### The Cleanup Proposal...

After careful study of Site 41, the Navy proposes the following plan:

- ☐ Soil Removal with Land Use Controls and Monitoring

#### What Do You Think?

The Navy is accepting public comments on this Proposed Plan from February 13 to April 6, 2001. You do not have to be a technical expert to comment. If you have a comment or concern, the Navy wants to consider it in the final decision.

There are two ways to formally register a comment:

1. Offer oral comments during the February 20, 2001 public meeting.
2. Send written comments postmarked no later than April 6, 2001 to

Ms. Christina Adams  
Public Affairs Officer  
Indian Head Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center  
Code PA, Building 20  
101 Strauss Avenue  
Indian Head, MD 20640-5035  
(301) 744-4304  
adamscs@ih.navy.mil

To the extent possible, the Navy will respond to your oral comments during the public meeting. In addition, regulations require the Navy to respond to all significant comments in writing. The Navy will review the transcript of the comments received at the meeting and all written comments received during the formal comment period before making a final decision. Written responses to the comments will be provided in a document called a **Responsive-**

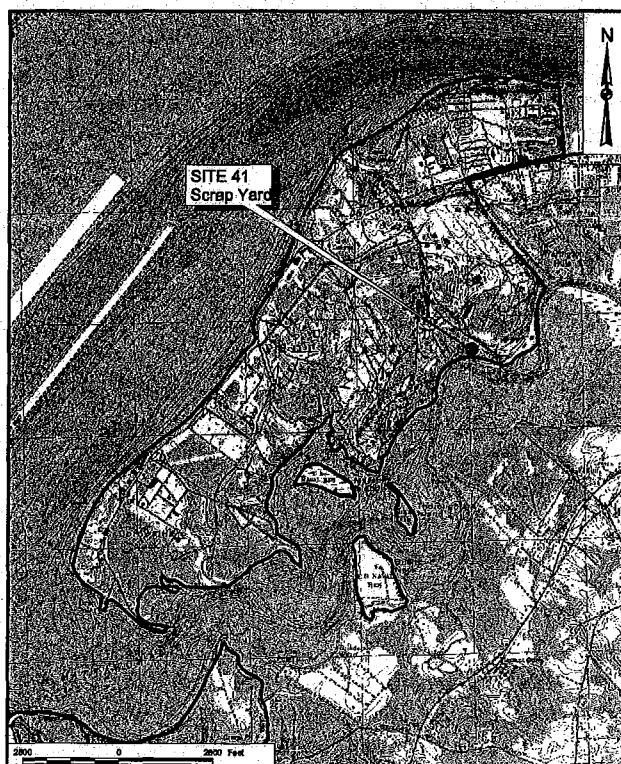


Figure 1. Installation Map

**ness Summary.** The **Responsiveness Summary** will be made a part of the **Record of Decision (ROD)** and will be available in the **Administrative Record File** at the locations shown on page 3.

*Technical terms shown in bold print are defined in the glossary on page 4.*

## The Proposed Plan

The Proposed Plan is a document summarizing the remedy preferred by the Navy, which is working in conjunction with EPA and MDE, for Site 41 at the Indian Head Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center (IHDIV-NSWC). In accordance with the **Superfund Law**, the final decision will be made after the Navy receives and considers comments from the public. The site is located in the southeastern portion of IHDIV-NSWC (Figure 1) and is one of the 48 sites currently included in the Activity's Installation Restoration (IR) Program.

The goal of the IR Program is to identify hazardous contamination from past operations, characterize the contamination by determining its concentration and extent in environmental media, assess the potential effects of the contamination on human health and the environment, and either clean up the contamination or control human and environmental exposure to it.

## The Proposed Remedy

The Proposed Plan, which has been developed in conjunction with EPA Region 3 and MDE, recommends the following actions to protect human health and the environment:

- Excavate about 1,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil. Transport the soil to an off-site landfill or incinerator, whichever is appropriate. Excavated areas will be filled with clean soil. This will cost about \$750,000 and will take 2 months to complete.
- Put land use controls in place to restrict future site use and prevent use of contaminated shallow groundwater. Monitoring will be conducted to make sure that contaminants are not moving off site at unacceptable levels. This will cost about \$15,000 per year and will continue until contaminants can no longer cause potential harm to the environment.

A detailed description of Site 41 appears in the **Remedial Investigation (RI) Report**, and a detailed description of all clean-up alternatives considered appears in the **Feasibility Study (FS) Report**. These reports are available at the locations identified on page 3.

## History

Site 41 is a fenced scrap yard about 750 feet long and 75 to 100 feet wide located adjacent to Mattawoman Creek (Figure 2). A concrete slab is present within most of the fenced area; however, the slab is buried under soil in some places. It was reported that electrical transformers containing poly-

chlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were stored at the northwestern end of Site 41 from the 1960s until 1988. These transformers were believed to have leaked and contaminated the soil in this portion of the site. In addition, lead-acid storage batteries were stored in the scrap yard and may have released lead to the surface soil. Runoff from Site 41 flows southwestward into Mattawoman Creek.

## Finding of the Field Investigations

The Navy, in cooperation with EPA Region 3 and MDE, conducted several field investigations from 1992 to 1999 to determine if soil, shallow **groundwater**, surface water, or sediment has been contaminated by past activities at Site 41. The potential effects of the **contaminants** on human health, **ecological receptors**, and the environment were evaluated in the **RI Report**.

Analytical data for surface water samples suggest that historic activities at Site 41 have had minimal impact on surface water quality. The concentration of trichloroethene (TCE) in shallow groundwater, which is not used for drinking, was higher than the Safe Drinking Water Act Maximum Contaminant Level.

**Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** were detected infrequently in soil and shallow groundwater.

**Semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs)**, primarily **polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)**, were detected in more than half of the surface soil samples but only in 10 percent of the subsurface soil samples.

Pesticides were sporadically detected in surface and subsurface soil samples.

Widespread polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination was evident in surface soil samples; however, PCBs were not detected in subsurface soil samples.

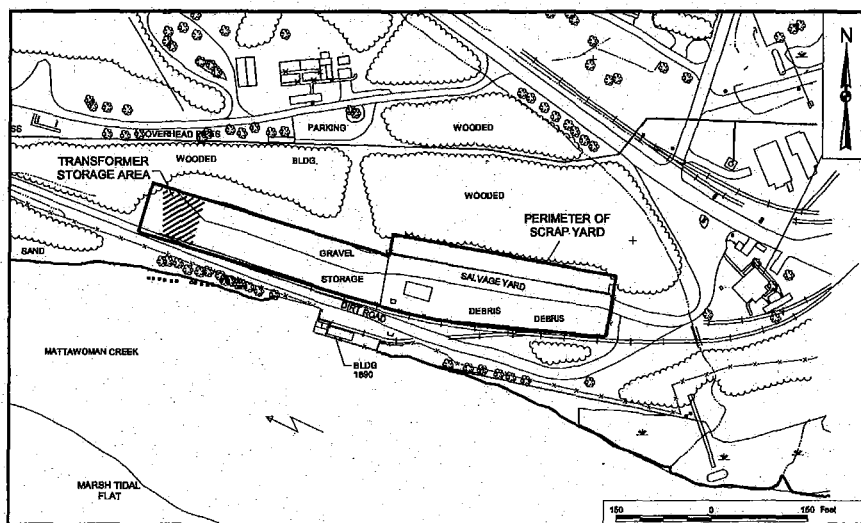


Figure 2. Site Location Map

Several metals were detected at concentrations higher than Activity-wide **background concentrations**. Arsenic, cadmium, and lead were detected most often in surface soil samples.

## Site Risks

The human health **risk assessment** considered potential risks to current and future receptors. There would be some potential risks to employees if they worked at the scrap yard on a full-time basis and to construction workers if they dug into the ground. Actions are needed as described in the Proposed Plan to address the potential risks to these receptors from exposure to soil contaminated with arsenic, cadmium, lead, PCBs, and PAHs. There would also be risks to people if they lived at the site and drank contaminated shallow groundwater. This situation is highly unlikely; however, actions need to be taken to make sure the site is not used for residential use and that groundwater is not used in the future.

There are potential risks to **ecological receptors** that contact surface soil contaminated with arsenic, cadmium, lead, and PCBs.

Specific information regarding **contaminant** concentrations and human health and ecological risk-based screening criteria is provided in the **RI Report**. The **RI Report**, including the **risk assessment**, is part of the **Administrative Record File**, which is available for review.

## Clean-Up Goals

Based on the recommendations of the **RI**, an evaluation of PCB clean-up regulations, the current use of the site as an active scrap yard, and anticipated future uses of the site, the following clean-up goals have been developed for Site 41:

- Prevent future residential development and use of contaminated shallow groundwater.
- Reduce or eliminate the risk posed by direct contact with contaminated soil.


The proposed clean-up plan will reduce the human health risks to acceptable levels under industrial (non-residential) exposure scenarios. The cleanup will also reduce the potential risks to **ecological receptors**. Specific information regarding the development of cleanup goals is provided in the **FS Report**. The **FS Report** is part of the **Administrative Record File**, which is available for review.

## Learn More About the Proposed Plan

The Navy will describe the Proposed Plan and hear your questions and comments at a public meeting.


For further information regarding the public meeting, contact Mr. Robert A. Sadorra, PE, at the Engineering Field Activity, Chesapeake, (202) 685-3275, [sadorrara@efaches.navfac.navy.mil](mailto:sadorrara@efaches.navfac.navy.mil).

You can ask for a copy of the Proposed Plan for Site 41, Scrap Yard, to be sent to you by calling Ms. Christina Adams at (301) 744-4304. You can also call this number to be placed on the mailing list to receive future publications pertaining to Site 41 or other sites at IHDIV-NSWC.



### PUBLIC MEETING

**Date:** February 20, 2001  
7 to 8:30 p.m.



**Location:**

Indian Head Senior Center  
100 Cornwallis Square  
Indian Head, MD 20640

## The Public's Role in Remedy Selection

Community input is an important part of the remedy selection process. The Navy and regulatory agencies will review and consider all comments before selecting a final remedy and signing the **ROD** for Site 41. The public is encouraged to participate in the decision-making process.

This Proposed Plan for Site 41 is available for review, along with the rest of the **Administrative Record File**, at the following locations:

☛ Charles County Public Library La Plata Branch Charles & Garrett Sts La Plata, MD 20646 (301) 934-9001	Hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 9 AM - 8 PM Fri.: Noon - 5:00 PM Sat: Summer (closed), 9 AM-5 PM (after Labor Day) Sun: Closed
☛ IHDIV-NSWC General Library Indian Head Division Naval Surface Warfare Center Building 620 101 Strauss Avenue Indian Head, MD 20640-5035 (301) 744-4747	Hours: Mon.-Fri.: 9 AM - 5:30 PM Sat. & Sun.: Closed

For further information, please contact:

☛ Christina Adams  
Public Affairs Officer  
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Naval Surface Warfare Center  
Code PA, Building 20  
101 Strauss Avenue  
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(301) 744-4304  
Fax: (301) 744-6524  
[adamscs@ih.navy.mil](mailto:adamscs@ih.navy.mil)

- Shawn Jorgensen  
Remedial Project Manager  
Indian Head Division  
Naval Surface Warfare Center  
Code 046C, Building D-327  
101 Strauss Avenue  
Indian Head, MD 20640-5035  
(301) 744-2263  
jorgensensa@ih.navy.mil
- Dennis C. Orenshaw  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1650 Arch Street (3HS13)  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029  
(215) 814-3361  
orenshaw.dennis@epamail.epa.gov
- Curtis DeTore  
Remedial Project Manager  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
2500 Broening Highway  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
(410) 631-3440  
cdetore@mde.state.md.us
- Robert A. Sadorra, PE (Code 1811)  
Remedial Project Manager  
Engineering Field Activity-Chesapeake  
Building 212  
1314 Harwood Street S.E.  
Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20374-5018  
(202) 685-3275  
sadorrara@efaches.navfac.navy.mil

### Glossary of Technical Terms

- **Administrative Record File:** A record made available to the public that includes all information considered and relied on in selecting a remedy for a site.
- **Background Concentrations:** Concentrations of chemical compounds in environmental media that are representative of naturally occurring conditions or that may be attributable to historic, widespread human activity.
- **Contaminants:** Any physical, biological, or radiological substance or matter that, at a high enough concentration, could have an adverse effect on human health and the environment.
- **Ecological Receptors:** A plant or animal that is introduced to a compound in the environment.
- **EPA:** United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Feasibility Study (FS):** A study conducted to develop and evaluate clean-up options.
- **Groundwater:** Water found beneath the earth's surface. Groundwater may transport substances that have percolated downward from the ground surface as it flows towards its point of discharge.
- **MDE:** Maryland Department of the Environment.
- **Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs):** A group of chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas, garbage, or other organic substances. PAHs can be man-made or occur naturally. Benzo(a)pyrene is a PAH.
- **Record of Decision (ROD):** An official document that describes the selected remedy for a site. The ROD explains the remedy selection process and is issued by the Navy and EPA following the public comment period.
- **Remedial Investigation (RI):** A report that describes the site, explains the type and distribution of contaminants detected at the site, and presents the results of the risk assessment.
- **Responsiveness Summary:** A summary of written and oral comments received during the public comment period, together with the Navy's and EPA's responses to these comments.
- **Risk Assessment:** Evaluation and estimation of the current and future potential for adverse human health or environmental effects resulting from exposure to contaminants.
- **Semivolatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs):** Chemical compounds that evaporate more slowly than a volatile organic compound at normal temperatures and pressures. Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons are SVOCs.
- **Superfund Law:** An informal name for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).
- **Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):** Chemical compounds that evaporate readily at normal temperatures and pressures. Trichloroethene is a VOC.



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